



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS  
AMHERST

*UMass Extension*

Natural Resources and Environmental  
Conservation Program

Department of Natural Resources  
Conservation  
Holdsworth Natural Resources Center  
160 Holdsworth Way  
Amherst, MA 01003-9285  
413.545.4300 / 413.545.4358 fax

November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Dear Friend of Conservation,

**Help us identify important people who can make the conservation difference!**

Every day landowners and communities make decisions that impact natural resources and the many benefits they provide. Our goal is to have in each community the people that can deliver accurate information to landowners and organizations at these crucial decision making times. **In order to achieve this goal, we are depending on you to recommend people for this year's Keystone Training (formerly Coverts).**

The Coverts program recently changed its name to Keystone to better reflect its direction and goals. In ecology, a **keystone species** is one whose impacts on its environment are larger and greater than would be expected from one species. Like the Coverts program before, the Keystone Project educates forest owners and community leaders who have a significant impact on their communities. Keystone Cooperators can either own forestland, be involved in the care and stewardship of a property, or be an active community leader. The intent of the Keystone Project is to create a network of well educated opinion leaders who are able to work on conservation issues in their local communities and serve as a source of information to landowners, their organizations and towns.

The Keystone Project is an intensive 3-day training at the Harvard Forest which focuses on forest ecology and stewardship, wildlife management, and land conservation. The training consists of both indoor and field sessions, as well as informal time to learn from fellow participants. In addition, each participant is given resources to take home. Please see the enclosed program for more details. Participants are required to attend all parts of the program. We also suggest visiting the Keystone web site (<http://MassKeystone.net>), which has other details, and features success stories of previous Keystone Cooperators.

In return for this valuable educational opportunity, participants agree to return and serve as local resources and advocates for forest conservation in their communities with continued support from UMass Extension.

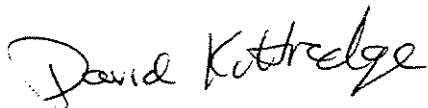
This spring, the program will take place on: **Thursday evening, April 24<sup>th</sup> through Sunday afternoon, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008** at the Harvard Forest in Petersham. The application deadline is: **Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008**. The Keystone Training will be held thanks to generous support from MA Fish and Wildlife and the Massachusetts Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

An application to the Keystone Project is enclosed. This application is an important step in helping us locate enthusiastic people to participate in the Keystone Project. If you are interested, please complete this form and return it by the deadline. If you know of good candidates, please pass this application on to them. Alternatively, you could contact us and we'd happily pass on application materials to likely candidates. Additional information and applications are available online: <http://MassKeystone.net>.

The Keystone Project is a competitive program. Applications will be reviewed for applicant experience, connectedness within the community, special skills, and diversity. Space in the program is limited to 25.

Thank you in advance for helping us to identify people in an excellent position to protect and conserve the woods of Massachusetts.

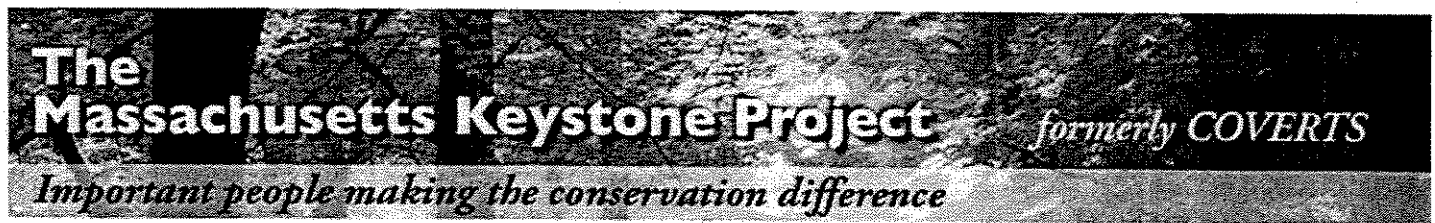
Sincerely,



David B. Kittredge, Jr.  
Professor/ Extension Forester  
[dbk@nrc.umass.edu](mailto:dbk@nrc.umass.edu)  
413 545-2943



Paul Catanzaro  
Forest Resources Specialist  
[cat@umext.umass.edu](mailto:cat@umext.umass.edu)  
413 545-4839



## Keystone Project

### *Sample Training Program*

THURSDAY, April 24, Harvard Forest, Petersham, MA\*\*\* (see below)

7:00 pm: light refreshments

7:30 pm: Introductions, orientation

FRIDAY, April 25, ALL DAY

8:00 - 12:30: Indoor at Harvard Forest. Subjects include: Historical Perspectives,  
Forest Ecology and Succession, Wildlife Habitats, Timber Management

12:30-1:30: Lunch

1:30 - 5:00: Field Trips

5:00 - 7:00: Informal Time/Dinner

7:00 – 9:00: Evening session on Landscape Management and Biodiversity

SATURDAY, April 26, ALL DAY

8:00 -12:30: Indoor at Harvard Forest. Subjects include: Harvesting Techniques  
Wildlife Management, Land Protection Strategies.

12:00 - 1:30: Lunch

1:30 – 5:00: Field Trips

5:00 – 7:00: Informal Time/Dinner

7:00 – 9:00: Group Exercise

SUNDAY, April 27, Program Ends at Approximately 2 P.M.

Outreach Opportunities

Presentations by 2 Keystone alumni

Workshop evaluation

\*\*\* ***The training will be held at Harvard Forest in Petersham, MA –***

- Directions: Route 2, turn off at Exit 17 (intersection with Route 32), turn right on 32 south toward Petersham and travel 3 miles south on Route 32. Harvard Forest is on the Left.
- <http://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/>.
- Telephone number during Friday work hours – (978) 724-3302.
- Accommodations are “dormitory” style. Linens are provided.
- All meals are provided.
- Remember appropriate clothes for April and possibly bugs

## **Keystone Project (formerly Coverts) Application Form**

In ecology, a **keystone species** is one whose impacts on its environment are larger and greater than would be expected from one species. Like the Coverts program before, the Keystone project educates forest owners and community leaders who have a significant impact on their communities. Keystone Cooperators can either own forestland, be involved in the care and stewardship of a property, or be an involved community leader. This application is an important step in helping us locate enthusiastic people to participate in the Keystone Project.

**The Keystone Project is a competitive program.** Applications will be reviewed for applicant experience, connectedness within the community, special skills, and diversity.

If you know of good candidates, please pass this application on to them. If you are interested, please complete this form as soon as possible and return to:

Keystone Project  
Paul Catanzaro  
Holdsworth Hall, University of Massachusetts  
Amherst, MA 01003  
413 545-4839 fax = 413 545-4358  
**cat@umext.umass.edu**

The application **deadline** is: **Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008**. Information about Keystone and more copies of this application are available at:  
<http://MassKeystone.net>

1) Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First)

2) Address:  
Home \_\_\_\_\_  
(R.R., Street, or PO Box)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Town) (State) (Zip)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Phone & best time to call)

\_\_\_\_\_  
email address (*please print clearly*)

3) Current Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

4) How long have you lived in your community? \_\_\_\_\_ Years

5) Please indicate which statements below best describe you:

- a. I own \_\_\_\_\_ acres of forestland in Massachusetts
- b. I am involved in the stewardship of \_\_\_\_\_ acres of forestland in Massachusetts, through a (circle one: Conservation Commission, land trust, other conservation effort.)
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ I am involved in my community and wish to work on forest conservation issues

6) What, if any, land management activities have you carried out in the past three years? As an example, you might list: timber stand improvement, woods road construction and maintenance, releasing apple trees, tree planting, boundary maintenance, trail construction or other recreational improvements.

7) What, if any, conservation activities have you been involved with in the past three years? As an example, you might list: worked on town open space plan, permanently protected my property, monitored land trust land, spoke with a landowner regarding forest management and/or land protection.

8) Please list **ALL** your community and organizational experiences you have participated in (include, for example, memberships, offices held in community groups, community learning experiences, volunteer activities, etc.). **Please indicate the dates involved and the activities or groups in which you are currently active.** Use an attached sheet if necessary.

Organization/Activity

Role

9) If the community or any groups have recognized your services with any special awards, would you please explain.

10) Please indicate the statement which most accurately describes the level of knowledge you feel you have about forestry and wildlife conservation.

- *please circle the appropriate letter* -

- a. I have no knowledge of forestry or natural resource management
- b. I am aware of some options available to me in managing my property for wood and wildlife.
- c. I understand some forest and wildlife management concepts and can explain them to others.
- d. I have enough skills to implement some forest and wildlife management activities on my land.
- e. I know as much about forest and wildlife management as most foresters or wildlife biologists.

11) How could you be most helpful in advocating forest conservation, wildlife management, and land protection in your community?

12) What aspects of the Keystone Project interest you the most?

Keystone participants receive room and board for three days, well over \$200 in take-home references, and benefit in many other ways from this intensive educational effort. We are asking people who are selected to participate to invest \$50 in the program to partially offset expenses. These funds could come directly from an individual, **or be generated by a local conservation organization** (e.g., Conservation Commission or land trust) sponsoring a person.

If selected to be a Keystone Cooperator, do you agree to pay tuition of \$50?  
Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If you are selected to be a Keystone Cooperator, what dietary restrictions should we make the caterer aware of?

**Thank you for your interest in forest and wildlife conservation.**